

March 10, 2020

To: All Iowa Family Support Professionals

From: Janet Horras, State Home Visitation Program Director

Re: Coronavirus

Cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Iowa. A call center for providers and public to call has been established at IDPH. Staff can direct callers to call 211 to be connected.

IDPH Novel Coronavirus Website: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>

The website includes information that is updated daily. It is the information hub for the state of Iowa. The risk status to the general public is very low. Please follow the common sense guidance that can be found on the website.

Family Support Programs: Please follow the guidance provided on the IDPH website for handwashing and other precautions. Home visitors should be practicing handwashing before and after home visits. Group based parent education programs should encourage participants to stay home if they have any signs of any contagious illness or have recently been exposed to any contagious illness. Home visitors should follow their organizational procedures for when a staff member is ill or when a participant has a contagious illness.

Please ensure that you are only sharing evidence-based information with families regarding the coronavirus. We highly encourage the use of the IDPH website which also includes a link to the CDC website if you would like national information.

IDPH continues to suggest utilizing the same guidance that is offered from schools and child care of when you should stay home and self-isolate. In the event that a family support professional is ill or is 60 or older and has an underlying health issue as identified on the IDPH Novel Coronavirus website, organizations should follow their vacancy plan to ensure the continuity of services.

A policy is being developed for using teleconferencing in the event that a participant has a confirmed case of Coronavirus. We will share that policy as soon as it is available.

COVID-19 Child Care/School Resources

The following COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) resources and link are available on the Healthy Child Care Iowa website on the "printed products" page at <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>. These products may be very helpful to the families we serve.

The HCCI COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Resources include:

- The COVID-19 Guidance: Child Care Centers and Homes a guidance document with specific information for Iowa child care providers about symptoms, exclusion, planning for absenteeism and communication.
- The EPA COVID-19 Disinfecting List is a handout by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which lists EPA registered disinfecting products for use against Novel Coronavirus.

Please continue to reach out if you have a very specific situation that you would like to discuss. Thank you for your continued service!